(i) Window glasses are bing resealed with silicone adhesives.

(ii) Change of window rubber seals has been planned during periodic over-hauls.

(iii) Specialized agencies are being engaged for better rodent control.

(iv) Instructions have been reiterated to tone up the maintenance practices at all the depots responsible for maintenance of coaches and conduct frequent inspections.

(c) and (d) No. Sir. Proper care is taken to ensure proper upkeep of Rajdhani trains which are Indian Railways premium services and their condition is regularly monitored to ensure comfortable journey to the passengers. However, the following additional steps are being taken to improve these services:

(i) Refurbishing of older coaches.

(ii) Improvement in toilet fittings and quality of soap provided in toilets.

(iii) Need-based strengthening of travelling safaiwalas and improvement their work-kits.

(iv) Progressive provision of FL tubelight fittings in place of incandescent lamps.

Gunda-Kottur Rail Line

4401. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent so far on the Gunda-Kottur rail line in Karnataka;

(b) the amount earmarked for further transformation;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that work on this track has not progressed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when the above work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) The gauge conversion of Gunda Road—Kotturu section was taken up and completed in March 1996 as a part of Hospet—Hubli

—Goa gauge conversion project. The expenditure for part of the project is not maintained separately.

Rail Yatri Niwas in A.P.

4402. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of railway guest houses/Yatri Niwas presently functioning in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to construct more Yatri Niwas in the State to promote tourism there; and

(c) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) At present no Rail Yatri Niwas facilities are available in Andhra Pradesh. There are three locations *viz.* Secunderabad, Tirupati and Warangal identified for provision of Budget Hotels/Rail Yatri Niwas in this State.

Renigunta-Alipri extension rail line

4403. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthnam (TTD) and the Railway authorities had discussed plans for laying an extension line from Renigunta railway station to Alipri junction, at the foot of the Tirumala hills, with financial assistance from the TTD;

(b) if so whether any agreement in this regard has been signed;

(c) what is the total cost of expenditure to be involved;

(d) to what extent the TTD has agreed to provide financial assistance; and

(e) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A paper study to assess the feasibility of providing a line has been done. However, as no formal request in this regard from Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) authorities was received, no further action could be taken.